

ELSAH HISTORY

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PRESERVING FARLEY'S MUSIC HALL

Farley's Music Hall is one of the three large structures left in the Village of Elsie — the other two being the old school building which now serves as the Civic Center, and the Village Hall where the Village Museum is located. Since Farley's was built in 1885, it has served this village as a gathering place for every kind of social event — weddings, receptions, plays, dances, concerts, pot luck suppers, rummage sales, Knights of Pythias lodge meetings, and even a few Indian Medicine Shows.

During the 1993 flood, Farley's was badly damaged when it was inundated by six to seven feet of water. Historic Elsie Foundation was given an anonymous \$30,000 gift to purchase the building. Grants, loans, private donations, and about \$40,000 of our own money, enabled us to restore the structure. Costs came very close to \$140,000. (See *Elsie History* #70/71.)

Even though the building was completely renovated after the 1993 flood, there has since been major deterioration of the exterior siding and window sills, mainly due to poor drainage. Last fall we spent \$10,750 for copper gutters and roof repair. We have been told the original metal roof (installed about 1905) will most likely need to be replaced in another 20 years at an estimated cost of \$40,000. This summer the roof will be cleaned and painted again. Our next project will be to replace rotted siding and paint the building, which needs to be done about every 10 years.

As stewards of this historic treasure, Historic Elsie Foundation's board of directors is faced with the ongoing desire and duty to preserve this important village structure. After much deliberation and planning it was decided to open a "Farley's Endowment Fund" and invite members and friends to support this preservation project.

Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$100,000 for this fund, plus \$25,000 to meet Farley's current needs. Based on a conservative estimate of a 5% return, a \$100,000 endowment should provide a minimum of \$5,000 a year to be used exclusively for preservation of the building. Pledges and donations to date total \$17,500.

Unless the donor specifies otherwise, one-fifth of each donation will be used for Farley's immediate need and four-fifths will be added to the Endowment Fund. Progress reports and a listing of donors will appear in future issues of this newsletter.

We hope the readers of this newsletter will accept this invitation to participate in the preservation of Farley's Music Hall by sending their donation. All donors will be recognized with a listing of names on a "Wall of Recognition" which will be on permanent display in the foyer of Farley's Music Hall.



An Elsie treasure worth preserving

Photo: Henry S. Hamlin

Farley's Music Hall: A Legal History

By John W. Williams

Farley's Music Hall, well over 100 years old, is the home of the Historic Elsah Foundation. The history of Farley's Music Hall, named after its builder and his alleged intention for the building, can be traced through real estate records and mentions in Jerseyville newspapers. Real estate records are maintained by the Jersey County Clerk and copies of old newspapers are preserved by the Jersey County Historical Society.

General James Semple is considered the founder of Elsah. The village is generally dated from March 7, 1853, when Semple filed a plat of the village with the county authorities (Book J, page 474), thus giving Elsah its first legal identity. Some confusion about platting of the village was caused by the re-filing of the plat in 1868 (Book 28, page 640). The village was incorporated on April 10, 1873 (Deed Record Book 63, page 305).

On February 4, 1857, James and Mary Semple sold their land to the Elsah Building and Manufacturing Company. The company filed (or, more appropriately, refiled) a plat of the village (August 31, 1868, Book 28, page 640). The Semples sold the central portion of the village, approximately 160 acres, for \$8,000. An additional 236 or so acres were sold to the company on January 16, 1858, for \$26,000. Both conveyances contained an important provision: "[T]his deed is made on the express condition, that all the said lands shall be laid off into a convenient town lots, and each alternate lot as near as may be throughout the whole extent of the town shall be given as a pure donation to any person who may build on, or improve the same in such a manner and on such conditions as may be established by the said party" [Semples].

Through the 1970s, real estate attorneys would compile a legal history of a piece of property in the form of an "abstract of title." This was a way of documenting and protecting "legal title" to land. It has been supplemented by a title insurance process. The first formal entry in the abstract of title for Farley's is the 1868 platting of the village, rather than the 1853 platting. As a result, there is initial confusion, because the second entry is the sale of Lot 4 of Block 11 in 1866, two years before the plat listed in the abstract.

The lineage of the land falls into order because the 1866 sale was not filed with the county recorder of deeds until 1873. From a legal title perspective, the important date is the filing date, when legal documents are submitted to the county recorder of deeds and filed in the land records. Until filing occurs, there is no system for documenting or tracking land ownership. Modern title companies, which search legal histories and issue title insurance policies guaranteeing "clear title" to land, depend on the formal land records.

The original records were hand-written into the books. Subsequently, original legal documents were stamped (as filed), copies placed in the books, and the originals returned to the owners. This change generally coincided with the decline

in the use of the title abstract, since owners could retain actual legal documents.

The original huge musty deed books are still preserved at the Jersey County government building. Even with the advent of computers and information technology, the original legal documents must be delivered to the recorder of deeds. In the mid-1860s, this meant a full day's trek of the thirty mile round trip from Elsah to Jerseyville. Today, the difference between a document date and a filing date is usually less than a week. In the 1800s, the difference could be more than seven years!

In the original transaction to the Elsah Building and Manufacturing Company, the company president was listed as Charles Floyd Jones and the secretary was L. M. Brady. The identity of the real president of the company would surface in subsequent documents. The legal documents reveal that Elsah was spelled both with and without an "h," even in the same document. On January 25, 1866, the Elsah Building and Manufacturing Company conveyed Lot 4 of Block 11 (along with some other parcels) to William Bates (filed August 14, 1873; Book 40, page 40).

One of the requirements of the warranty deed was that the new owner was responsible for grading and paving the streets, alleys, curbstones, and sidewalks adjacent to the lot. The new owner also accepted responsibility for cleaning and maintaining the streets and alleyways. The deed was acknowledged by the President of the Elsah Building and Manufacturing Company, James Semple (note the variation in spelling of Elsah). Bates' purchase was financed by Semple. William Bates and his wife, Sarah Y. Bates, obtained a promissory note in the amount of \$728.33 for a term of three years at a rate of 10%, payable annually. The note was secured by Lot 4, as well as other property. Thus, Lot 4 may have been worth somewhat less than the amount of the loan.

Four years later, on January 15, 1870, William and Sarah Bates sold Lot 4 to Louis Keller (filed February 19, 1870; Book 31, page 639). As in other documents, Sarah Bates signed with "her mark." The consideration given for the property was listed as \$80.00.



The only known picture of Farley's Music Hall (on the far right) as a one-story structure, built in 1885. HEF file photo

According to the Elsah guidebook, Louis Keller, a cooper, came to Elsah in March 1856. He built the two-story stone and mansard roof house (Keller-Taetz) immediately north of Farley's shortly thereafter. His son, Edward Keller, began Keller's store (now Jeremiah's-Elsah) in 1879.

Fifteen years later, on March 24, 1885, Louis Keller and Fronicka Keller, his wife, sold the property to Nancy Elizabeth Farley for the listed amount of \$125 (filed June 5, 1885; Book 61, page 163). The title transfer gives the spelling of Mrs. Keller's first name both with and without the final "a."

Nancy Farley was married to Dr. Benjamin F. Farley. The Jersey County Democrat newspaper reported on April 2, 1885, that Keller sold lots to his west (actually south) to Farley who planned to put up a "public building." Benjamin F. Farley was one of Elsah's principal physicians for many years, although some Democratic newspaper columnists branded him as a quack.

Farley was an active leader of Elsah Republicans. The Elsah guidebook calls him "Republican boss of Elsah." The house with the mansard roof at the corner of Mill and Maple street was the Farley home. In addition to their home, the house also served as a boarding house and doctor's office. According to the guidebook, "In his capacity of Republican boss of Elsah, Dr. Farley undertook in 1885 to construct the long building across the creek from his home. Very quickly it became known as the 'Music Hall' or 'Farley's Dance Hall.' In spite of protests of the Democrats, the hall became a center of village activity, including visits from wandering Indian medicine shows, meetings of the literary clubs, church socials, school plays, and all sorts of dances." (page 39)

According to the Jersey County Democrat newspaper, by April 23, 1885, Dr. Farley had the foundation of the new building ready for the carpenters to begin the frame. Jeremiah, the anonymous Elsah correspondent writing in the local county newspaper, wrote that Dr. Farley's Music Hall was nearly finished (May 28, 1885). Within three weeks, the Music Hall opened (June 18, 1885). The local newspaper does not report anything about the Music Hall in 1886 or 1887. However, in 1888, the newspaper airs local suspicions that Farley built the Hall for political purposes rather than as a dance hall. Farley died around 1890.

In 1892 the Umatilla Indian Medicine Company presented their Wild West Indian Show in the Music Hall. According to the paper, "They gave an excellent entertainment last evening free of charge, and they will give entertainments every night for two weeks, being free of charge, with the exception of two nights." (December 29, 1892)

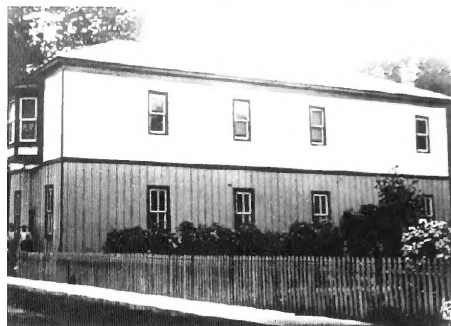
The January 22, 1896, issue of the Jersey County Democrat newspaper listed the "nightly attractions at Farley's Hall" for the week: "a medicine company has hit the town. The Epworth League gave a 'poverty social' last Wednesday night at Farley's hall. Everybody came in his 'old klose' and had a 'rousing big time.' Coffee and cake were the refreshments."

By the mid-1890s, the building was referred to as "Mrs. Farley's dancing hall" (Jersey County Democrat, March 5, 1896). That story reported that the hall was to be converted

into a dining room for the contractors working on the Elsah Bluff Line railroad right-of-way.

On October 5, 1909, Nancy Elizabeth Farley, listed as "a widow," sold the property to the Trustees of the Black Cross Lodge No. 106, Knights of Pythias, for the listed amount of \$400 (filed November 6, 1909; Book 110, page 443).

A number of well-known Elsah families were represented in the Knights of Pythias lodge. Among the Lodge trustees were T. J. Palmer, James Piggott, and John B. Reintges. The Knights of Pythias added the second story. The second floor included a large meeting room (the front ¾ of the building) and a private office, guarded by a door with a peep hole.



Farley's Music Hall in 1910 soon after the second story was added by the Knights of Pythias. HEF file photo

On June 11, 1918, the Lodge, with these three men listed as Trustees, sold the property to John B. Reintges for the listed amount of \$1,000. The warranty deed provided for the rental of the upstairs ("the upper hall") to the Knights of Pythias "for one year from date at the rate of \$24.00" (filed May 13, 1924; Book 138, page 404). There was a flaw in this transfer in that there was no statement of "authority for its execution" (such as a formal resolution of the lodge), especially since the buyer was a trustee of the selling organization.

John Reintges died January 20, 1919, apparently without leaving a will. The following month William and Mary L. Mendossa sold Lot 4 and other real estate to the Elsah Methodist Episcopal Church (as it was then known) for the amount of \$100 (sold February 22, 1919, filed March 27, 1919; Book 128, page 340). Land transaction records do not need to list the actual purchase price. According to Jerry Taetz (a recent owner of Farley's), William Mendossa was a trustee of the Knights of Pythias Lodge. One of the church trustees was Walter Cresswell.

We have an interesting situation in which the Knights of Pythias sells the building to John Reintges, who dies without transferring the property, but without promptly filing the transaction with the recorder of deeds. Shortly after his death, a trustee of the Lodge and his wife sell the building. For 30 years the building is used for church activities.

The confusion over ownership was resolved by lawsuit shortly after World War Two. John Reintges' estate was finally settled in 1950. The administrator was Paul Fleming. He identified four heirs: Reintges' widow, Ann, and three

children, Eva, Zett, and Mark (also spelled in documents as Marx). Eva never married; Zett married a Mr. Taylor; and Mark disappeared. One legal document declared, "Marx Reintges disappeared more than 10 years ago and has not been heard from since then by the petitioner or anyone known to the petitioner or to the family of said Marx Reintges" (In the Matter of the Estate of John B. Reintges, Deceased, Miscellaneous Record E, page 510).

On February 2, 1950, Fleming filed an amended petition with the Jersey County court. It acknowledged "a cloud upon the title" (legalese for "we've got a legal problem here"). "The amended petition prays for the same relief in the original petition and prays the Court to order the cloud upon the title to said Lot 4 removed and the title quieted in the above-named heirs." (Miscellaneous Record F, page 13).

Apparently, someone challenged Fleming's original petition to sell the property (dated December 15, 1949). So Fleming, in his amended petition, detailed certain facts. First, John Reintges had been in "actual and exclusive possession" of the building during the last seven months of his life. Since his death, his heirs "have had the open, visible, actual, adverse, exclusive, continuous, uninterrupted, notorious and hostile possession of said Lot 4, under claim or color of title acquired and retained in good faith against all the world, and that no person whomsoever made any attack upon their possession or claim of ownership thereof." (Miscellaneous Record F, page 13).

The amended petition also declared that the heirs maintained the building and paid the taxes. The Court ruled on February 24, 1950, that the property belonged to the heirs of John Reintges and permitted the sale of Farley's (Miscellaneous Record F, page 14).

All of Reintges' property was controlled by the administrator, who sold the property at private sale in order to collect sufficient money to pay Reintges' debts (which, according to the legal papers, was \$3,500). Eva Reintges, the daughter who never married, bought Farley's from the estate for \$500 (March 17, 1950, filed March 20, 1950; Book 173, page 546). Eva Reintges eventually sold the building to the Elsah Methodist Church on August 16, 1954 (filed August 25, 1954; Book 192, page 349). Listed as Trustees of the church were W. O. Seagraves, James H. Fessler, A. M. Jacobson, Henry Walker, and Dwight Moody. The building was called the Elsah Methodist Recreation Building.

The Methodist Church was organized around a "Quarterly Conference." A special meeting of the Quarterly Conference was called by Clyde Funkhouser, President, and Rev. James F. Barnett, Acting Secretary, on July 26, 1964. James Barnett was the church's pastor, chairman of the Official Board, and Secretary of the Quarterly Conference. Clyde Funkhouser, President of the Quarterly Conference, was also District Superintendent of the East St. Louis District of the Methodist Church, based in Lebanon, Illinois. The members voted to sell the recreation building and apply the funds toward the improvement of the church structure. Of the 18 persons at the meeting, 15 voted in the affirmative and none in the negative.

Sealed bids were to be sent to church trustee Harold Fry. The Official Board of the Elsah Methodist Church met on August 31, 1964, to open two bids submitted to Fry. The low bid of Number 91

\$2,500 was submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Forbes Robertson. The high bid of \$2,600 was submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Moody. By a unanimous vote of the seven members of the board in attendance, the church accepted the high bid. On October 5, 1964 (filed November 20, 1964; Book 256, page 593), the church sold the building to Dwight and Margaret Ann Moody (as Joint Tenants and not as tenants in common). The church trustees listed on the warranty deed were August Jacobson, Harold Fry, James H. Fessler, James Thompson, and Dwight Moody. By the way, the Public Notary witnessing the deed was Edward W. Keller.

Unlike the transfer of Farley's under the Knights of Pythias, the Methodist Church made sure to have all the appropriate documents in order. The documents included the resolution of the church members to sell the building (July 26, 1964); a letter of permission (August 6, 1964) from Clyde Funkhouser, to Rev. James F. Barnett (the local pastor) to sell the building; letter of permission (August 31, 1964) from Pastor Barnett to the church trustees; and minutes of the "official board meeting" of August 31, 1964, to accept the Moody bid.

Almost every ten years Farley's changed hands. In 1954, Eva Reintges sold the building to the Elsah Methodist Church.

On October 5, 1964, the church sold the building to the Moodys.

On August 27, 1974, the Moodys sold the building to Edward F. and Olive Marie Scarborough of Moro, Illinois (filed August 29, 1974; Drawer 2, page 2292). The deed was stamped with \$7.50 worth of tax stamps (which can be used to track the actual amount of the purchase).

Dennis Edward Scarborough and Peggy A. Scarborough (husband and wife) of Alton, Illinois, and Douglas Keith Finch and Donna C. Finch (husband and wife) of Webster, New York, sold the building to Eugene E. Schuh and Jeanette E. Schuh (husband and wife). The deed (dated September 20, 1978, filed October 17, 1978; Drawer 8, page 2038) was stamped with \$17.50 worth of tax stamps.

Jeanette Schuh sold Farley's to Patricia and Gerald Taetz on December 11, 1984. Following the Great Flood of 1993, the Taetzes sold Farley's to the Historic Elsah Foundation in December of that year.



*Historic Elsah Foundation's Farley's Music Hall in 2005
Photo: Marie Oleson*

Village of Elseh Museum Events...

The Village Museum opened for the season on Saturday, April 1.

Hours are 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, through October 29.

Museum exhibits and events for 2006

May 12 through July 30: Elseh School Days exhibit

July 29: Submission deadline for photo contest. Theme: *Elsah Close Up*

August 11 through October 29: Photography exhibit

August 12: Reception for Photographers; 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

September 30: Special Entertainment Day: blue grass musician, Jim Hostler and friends

October 27, 28, 29: Annual Book and Bake Sale (bake sale Saturday, October 28, only)

October 29: Museum closes for season

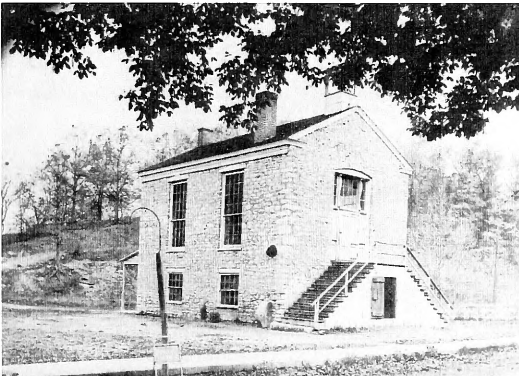
The Elseh School

This year's Heritage Days museum exhibit will focus on "Elsah School Days." According to the *History of Green and Jersey Counties*, published in 1885, the Elseh School "...was erected in the year 1857 by the late Gen. James Semple, who was a great friend of education. The building is a large stone structure, two stories high, and is 24x36 feet. The cost at that time was \$2,833. After the district was formed the building was purchased from Gen. Semple by the board of directors. The present teachers are Miss Minnie E. Lane, principal, and Miss Rosa V. Stroud, in the lower department. The school is considered to be in a flourishing condition, and with the present board of education will so continue." After almost 100 years, in 1956, the brick addition was added as well as the indoor toilet facilities.

The school was a center of village life. Faded newspaper articles tell of numerous plays, celebrations, parties, and end-of-year picnics that took place during the 113 years Elseh students attended the school.

Children from the village and surrounding area attended the Elseh School from first through eighth grades. Grades one through four met in the downstairs room and grades five through eight met in the upstairs room. After graduation from the eighth grade, students attended Alton High School.

In 1948 Jersey County voted to consolidate small schools. Although Elseh voted 34 for and 70 against, the overall vote in the county was 755 for and 609 against. Unit 100 of Jersey County was now responsible for operating the school. Closing the school was first mentioned January 14, 1958.



A picture of the Elseh School taken in 1918.

Photo: Courtesy of the Jersey County Historical Society

In 1969 the lower room was closed and children in grades one through three were bussed to other schools. In 1970 Mrs. Dorothy Ross taught her last class and the school closed completely.

On February 13, 1971 Unit 100 of Jersey County auctioned off the building, and the Elseh Village Board was the successful bidder for \$5,300. The upstairs became the village museum and the downstairs served as a village office and meeting place. In 2001 the museum moved to the Village Hall and the village government expanded into the space.

The only reunion of students and teachers took place in 1992. Memories were recorded in the 1992 (#62) issue of this newsletter.

Members of the museum committee tried to compile a list of all the teachers who have taught at the Elshah School. The list below is incomplete and if anyone can add a name, please let us know.

Prior to 1950 there were 75 schools in Jersey County, including five in Elshah Township: Elshah, Jefferson, Plainview, Randolph, and White Oak. It has not always been easy to determine in exactly which of these five schools a teacher actually taught.

A handwritten history of the Elshah School was found in the archives of the Jersey County Historical Society. The history was written in 1918 and lists "...as many former teachers of Elshah as we have been able to obtain." The record is blank from the time the school opened in 1857 to 1867. Daniel Brown and Miss Mary Brown taught from the fall of 1867 through the spring of 1870. The record again goes blank from the fall of 1870 through the spring of 1881.

The first name on each line is the "upstairs" teacher (grades five through eight) and the second name is the "downstairs" teacher (grades one through four). When two teachers taught together for more than one year, the years are compressed together into one line.

1881-1882: Mr. Dew Walker/Minnie Lane
 1882-1883: Minnie Lane/Rosa V. Stroud
 1883-1884: Mr. Bull/Rosa V. Stroud
 1884-1885: T. C. Brock/Rosa V. Stroud
 1885-1886: S. B. Nott/Rosa V. Stroud
 1886-1887: Mr. Allen/Rosa V. Stroud
 1887-1889: Mr. Kiely/Rosa V. Stroud
 1889-1892: Mr. Yerkes/Rosa V. Stroud

The record picks up again in

1898-1899: Edwin S. Terry/Carrie Seagraves
 1899-1900: W. W. Pulliam/Elizabeth Keller
 1900-1902: W. W. Pulliam/Lizetta Reinges
 1902-1903: Elizabeth Keller/Lizetta Reinges
 1903-1904: Douglas Bell/Hattie Pittinger
 1904-1905: Douglas Bell/May Noble
 1905-1906: Charles O'Donnell/Lizetta Reintges
 1906-1907: Francis Hargraves/Lizetta Reintges
 1907-1908: J. B. Legate/Tessie Worthey
 1908-1910: Louis E. Groppel/Metta Lurton
 1910-1911: Edwin Terry/Matilda Maltimore
 1911-1913: Frank Hopkins/Elizabeth Keller
 1913-1914: Agnes M. Collins/Elizabeth Keller
 1914-1915: Gertrude Schlansker/Eliz. Keller
 1915-1916: Clinton Cope/Rosa V. Stroud
 1916-1917: Paul W. Fenity/Emily Cutting
 1917-1919: Paul W. Fenity/Myrtle E. Weller

This is as far as the hand-written history takes us. According to June Cronin, Mr. and Mrs. Zumwalt taught in 1930-1931 and in 1931-1932 Pearl Contrell taught the lower grades. From here on we have searched other records and relied on local memory to complete the list.

A big thank you to Betty Clark, June Cronin, Carolyn and Judith Lane, Nancy McDow, Gloria Snyder, the Jersey County Historical Society, and the Unit 100 School District for their help with this project.

1933-1935: Freida Schroeder/Farris Swain
 1935-1936: Golda Simpson/Glenda Breen
 1936-1937: Anne Shortal/Helen Trovillioin
 1937-1946: Anne Shortal/Marie Roach
 1946-1947: Mayme Reisner/Marie Roach
 1947-1953: Mayme Reisner/Clarinda Seago
 1953-1954: Eunice Houseman/Clarinda Seago
 1954-1957: Nell Roth/Clarinda Seago
 1957-1960: Earl Clagg/Clarinda Seago
 1960-1961: Merlin Carlton/Clarinda Seago
 1961-1963: William Downing/Clarinda Seago
 1963-1964: Perry Sherwin/Clarinda Seago
 1964-1965: Dorothy Ross/Clarinda Seago
 1965-1968: Dorothy Ross/Alice Watrous
 1968-1969: Dorothy Ross/Gloria Snyder
 1969-1970: Dorothy Ross/classroom closed

Note: We welcome any additions or corrections to this list. We have been told, but have not been able to confirm, that a kindergarten class was established about 1950. Send your thoughts to HEF's mailing address or email Marie Oleson at oandmo@piasanet.com



Jane Bush and Lois Lock (back left and center) assist Elshah Museum committee members (from left to right) Jane Pfeifer, Marge Doerr and Marie Oleson in research on the history of the Elshah School at the Jersey County Historical Society.

Photo: Ramona Boehler

Village Happenings...

Elsah featured in television program, *Heartland Highways*: The program, produced by WEIU Public Television in Charleston, Illinois, aired on regional PBS stations February 1. Ann Badasch, Marge Doerr, Marie Oleson and Jane Pfeifer participated in the program.



Elsah's mayor, Marge Doerr, being interviewed by WEIU-TV's Lori Casey. Filming was done by Rachel Wikoff.
Photo: Marie Oleson

New Elms in Elsah: With a desire to restore the beautiful elm trees that once provided Elsah with welcome shade during the hot summers, four new elm trees have been planted along the eastern edge of Mill Street, from the old ice house ruin to the new park near Maple Street. These elms are of the popular Valley Forge variety and are resistant to Dutch Elm disease. The trees are a gift from Betsy Holt who has also planted two additional trees in her yard. Many thanks to Betsy for this generous gift, to Lynn Schreiber who ordered them and cared for them until they could be planted, to Bob Smith for planting them, and to Inge Mack, Marie Oleson, Jane Pfeifer, and Lynn Schreiber who have each adopted a tree to care for and water over the summer.

Learning wool appliqué:



Delightful and whimsical works of art were produced at the class for wool appliqué held at the Civic Center and sponsored by My Just Desserts. From left to right: Linda Campana, Gail Boswell, Barb Marfell (teacher), Ann Badasch, Carol Peterson, and Toni Mack. A quilt retreat is scheduled for next September. Photo: Marie Oleson

Election results: According to the last census there are 635 residents within Elsah's municipal limits. Out of approximately 160 registered voters, 72 cast ballots at the March 21 election on state and local issues.

Only one local issue was on the ballot for this election and that was the question: "Shall the pending bus ordinance be changed to allow large visitor buses to load and unload passengers on Mill Street?" Voters said "no" by a vote of 45 to 27 in a non-binding referendum.

The Elsah String Band:



Farley's Music Hall was the venue for two concerts and sing-alongs this May with great blue grass music by Elsah's own Jim Hostler and his musical friends, Barbi and Troy. Jim recently bought a home in Elsah and can often be seen making music out on his front porch. On nice days he and his friends love to play what he calls "Front Porch Music" and invites any and all to join in the fun. If you missed the May concerts they will be performing at the Village Museum's "Special Entertainment Day" on Saturday, September 30.

New copper gutters for Farley's:



Gary Ray of Elk Heating and Sheet Metal, and his brother, Chris, put the finishing touches on Farley's new half-round copper gutters last October. Gary is an artist with copper, and he hand-crafted the gutters using vintage tools.
Photo: Jeralyn Lewitz

Upcoming Activities in the Village of Elsayh...

Game night — pot luck supper, \$1.00/person
Second Saturday of each month
6:00 p.m. Civic Center

Folk dance — All are welcome, \$5/person;
\$15 max per family, student half-price with ID
Saturday, May 20
7:30 p.m. Farley's Music Hall

Elsah Day at Jersey County Historical Society
Tuesday, June 13
Lunch and tour; \$15/person
11:30 a.m. Cheney Mansion in Jerseyville

Quilt Retreat sponsored by My Just Desserts
Third annual quilting workshop; reservations req.
September 20, 21, 22 Civic Center

Welcome...

...to Kathy Baird — 19 LaSalle (the Gothic House)
...to Larry and Sallie Elder — 111 Mill Street (while they build their new home next door)
...to James Hostler — 101 Mill Street (home of the Elsayh String Band — great blue grass music)
...to Beverly Wilderman — 122B Cemetery Road

and Farewell...

...to Ruth and Rip Sparks — Riverview House to their new home in Fern Glen Valley
...to Greg and Pat Mossman — 111 Mill Street

and a move within the Village...

...Steve and Cindy Ira from 19 Lasalle (the Gothic House) to 3 Valley (the Parsonage)

Welcome to new members of HEF: Thomas Bryant, Joy Hanold, James Hostler, Betty Jean Kistler, Timothy Robertson, Dan and Jane Schmit, Susan Serns.

and to new Life Members: Brenda and Roy Coffman.

Thank you to those who have joined or renewed for 2006 at the supporting or patron level of membership (often with extra donations): Helen Andrews, Ann and Mark Badasch, John Belote, Tim and Joy Booth, Roy and Brenda Coffman, Linda and David Cornell, Jennifer Dyck, Tom and Sue Fuller, Stan and Ellen Hanold, Betsy Holt, James Hostler, Erik Jagel, Betty Johnson, Marie Jureit, Ute Levi, Phyllis Lockwood, Nancy McDow, Vince and Traci Millon, George and Martha Moffett, Warren and Lorraine Passmore, Timothy Robertson, Karen Rohne, Tom Russell, Jim and Mary Anne Schmidt, Arnold and Michelle Schmith, Eric and Lynn Screiber, Ann Barnes Simpson, Jack and Gloria Snyder, Lee and Cora Stickler, Carol Stookey, Mary Tober, Tim and Rose Tomlinson, Terry and Debbie Wedding, and Marian Wells.

HEF currently has 155 paid memberships (including 23 life memberships).

And thank you to many of our Life Members who do not need to renew their membership but who give so much during the year.

Historic Elsayh Foundation Board:

President	Marie Oleson
Vice President	Paula Bradley
Secretary	Carol Stookey
Treasurer	Tim Tomlinson

Board members:

Ann Badasch	Mary Anne Schmidt
Jeralyn Lewitz	Jeanne Shultz
Inge Mack	Gerald Taetz
Jane Pfeifer	Susan Young

Board Member Emerita: Marie Cresswell

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P.O. Box 117, Elsayh, IL 62028

The purposes of Historic Elsayh Foundation are stated in the Articles of Incorporation (1971):

"...the preservation and enhancement of the historic buildings, houses, architecture and culture of the Village of Elsayh, Illinois, the historic areas, the publication of historical brochures, pamphlets, and periodicals regarding the Village, and the establishment of an educational program to inform the general public of the historical and educational value of the Village."